



C o m m u n i c a t i o n s B o a r d
F i r e a n d E m e r g e n c y M e d i c a l S e r v i c e s
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Timothy Smith
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: January 15, 2004

VOTING MEMBERS: Dick Barrett, Patty Bietry, Steve Bowman, Ted Conners, Bill Gillette, John Merklinger, Scott Miller, Tim Smith, Dave Timmons, Larry Vaughan and Tim Warth

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Tom Coyle, Larry Mancine, Ed Riley, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner

OTHERS ATTENDING: Mike Catalano, Ellison Patterson, Jr. and Jim Weichman

EXCUSED: Dan Labowitz, Mike Lissow, Ed Mager, Brian Peartree, and Dave Pierce

ABSENT: Steve McClary and Diana Pfersick

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Timothy Smith at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Timothy Smith formally introduced and welcomed Steve Bowman as the new Director of Public Safety to our board. Also in attendance was Chief Tom Roche of the Gates Police Department. He spoke briefly on the Vandervort Group's "Consensus Plan" and asked for support from our board. After Chief Roche left the meeting, much discussion ensued. A motion was then made by Tim Warth to draft a letter in support of the plan to the FCC. Motion carried with 1 member opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Larry Vaughan and seconded by Scott Miller to approve the minutes of the December meeting with corrections. (The 2 changes are on page 3 of December minutes under "Anything for the Good of the Board". The 2 groups in support of the Vandervort Group's Consensus Plan should be the New York State Firemen's and Fire Chiefs associations, not the Monroe County Volunteer Firemen's and Fire Chiefs associations. Carried.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reframing Committee – No report.

Digital Paging Committee – No report.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – No report.

BATTALION REPORTS

Battalion 1- Tim Warth reported their battalion is interested in having a “mini-summit” to address digital paging issues and concerns. He hopes to have more information to share with us at our next meeting.

Battalion 2 – Larry Vaughan reported their next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 18th.

Battalion 3 – Ted Conners reported no issues or concerns at this time.

Battalion 4 – Scott Miller reported their battalion is meeting tonight, January 15th, and will bring any issues or concerns to our attention at our next meeting.

Battalion 5 – Patty Bietry reported their battalion met recently. She informed the Board that the Rush Fire Department would like to express their approval with the recent improvements that have taken place over the past few weeks.

911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – (See attachments).

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

Chairman Tim Smith asked Dick Barrett and Tim Warth for their results with regards to the election of officers to our board for 2004. Since there were no responses of interest received, Scott Miller motioned that Tim Smith and Dave Timmons be reappointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of our board. This was seconded by Dick Barrett, who in turn cast 1 ballot each.

John Merklinger reminded us that any Mutual Aid requests should come through the ECD.

Rich Verdouw received an e-mail from Bill Rickman of the Ridge Road Fire District. It was noted that they have not noticed an improvement on Channel 5 in regards to quality. They have noticed, however, a reduction in interference. They do not monitor EMS 295, and have not lost any quality there. A motion was then made by Dave Timmons to adjourn, seconded by Dick Barrett. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 19th, 2004, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.

Larry Mancine, Executive Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board